REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on February 8, 2006. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1-28 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicants have: 1) amended claims 1, 13-15 and 18; 2) added new claims 30-35; and 3) canceled claims 2, 3, 16, 17 and 28. As such, claims 1, 4-15, 18-27 and 30-35 are now pending. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims now presented.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Claims 3-10, 13-14, 17-18 and 19-25 would be allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent form. The claims have been amended in light of the Examiner's comments. For example, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include all of the limitations recited in original claims 3 and 17, respectively. Independent Claim 33 has been added which includes all of the limitations of Claim 4. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all claims.

It should be noted that the Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's assertion that all of the original claims are anticipated by the prior art of record (e.g., Finke-Anlauff, US Patent No. 6,850,226). Rather, in this case, Applicants have amended the claims merely to expedite a set of allowable claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account Number 02-2666. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Thomas C. Webster at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully Submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: _3/14_____, 2006

Thomas C. Webster
Reg. No.: 46,154

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300